GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:540
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015
SOIL EROSION AND LAND DEGRADATION
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study on the loss of land due to soil erosion and land degradation in various states including Bihar and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to provide financial assistance for rehabilitation of families affected as a result of soil erosion and land degradation and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Union Government thereon, State/UT wise;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to launch any new programme for optimum utilization of land in the country especially in rural areas; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 540 BY SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH REGARDING "SOIL EROSION AND LAND DEGRADATION" DUE FOR REPLY ON 30.04.2015.

(a) The Department of Land Resources has not conducted any study on the loss of land due to soil erosion and degradation in the States including Bihar. However, as per the information received from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), the extent of land degradation including soil erosion in the country is 120.4 million ha comprising of 82.6 million ha due to water erosion, 12.0 million ha due to wind erosion, 24.8 million ha due to chemical degradation and 1.0 million ha due to physical degradation. The State wise details including Bihar, is given in Annexure I.

(b) The Department has not received any request from the State Governments to provide financial assistance for rehabilitation of families affected as a result of soil erosion and land degradation. The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), now the Watershed Component of the the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, is being implemented in the States since 2009 by the Department of Land Resources for the development of rainfed/degraded areas including wastelands. The major activities taken up under this Component include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development etc.

(c)& (d): There is no such proposal to launch any new programme for the optimum utilisation of land in the country especially in the rural areas.